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New AFRL vice commander takes the reigns

by 2nd Lt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt, AFRL Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Col. David Walker took over the Air Force Research Laboratory vice commander position July 8.

He will play a key role in directing the Air Force's \$3 billion science and technology budget, which includes \$1.3 billion from laboratory customers.

Walker, the son of an Air Force pilot, has flown more than 2,600 hours, in 65 types of aircraft, as a weapon systems officer during his Air Force career.

He joins AFRL after commanding the 412th Operation Groups, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., where he led the developmental flight tests of the F/A-22, YAL-1, RQ-4A, X-45, X-35 and sustainment of the Air Force's fighters, bombers and transport aircraft.

A father of four, he hopes that his operational and test background will provide AFRL with some useful insight and credibility with the users while the laboratory strives to meet the warfighter's needs.

Walker intends to focus on two main goals as the vice commander. First, he wants to see AFRL adopt an enterprise approach and function as a corporate operation, especially in regard to AFRL's long-range planning. Second, he will continue to mentor the military side of the house and strive for promotions and awards for those who deserve recognition.

"I will allow folks to do their job," Walker said. "I will provide them the resources to do that job and the vision for where we are headed, while minimizing unnecessary interference."

Walker was commissioned in 1979, through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Texas, Austin, where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in aerospace engineering. He also holds a doctorate degree in aeronautical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology. @



Col. David Walker